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system, building roads and railways and redeeming the non-Christian tribes from savagery has been told in other books on the Philippines, but nowhere with the authority of such intimate knowledge as here. The chapter on slavery and peonage exhibits the peculiar difficulties that beset any attempt to remove an iniquitous institution so long as there remains the element in society that can profit by its continuance. The *cacique*, or boss, of the old régime resents foreign interference with his ancient custom of securing labor for nothing, and, while denying that any slaves or peons remain, his influence on the assembly is sufficiently strong to prevent legislation penalizing forced labor. The author's estimate of the legislative body is not high; "The treatment accorded it by the Philippine Assembly," he says, "conclusively demonstrates the irresponsibility of that body, and its unfitness to deal with great questions which vitally effect the common people." Until the franchise can be given to all adults alike the Assembly is naturally in the hands of the old *cacique* class and their interests are opposed to the *taos*. "Serious obstacles are therefore thrown," we are told, "in the way of poor people who desire to become owners of land," because with a self-supporting peasantry the peon would soon cease to exist. For the light thrown upon such problems as these Mr. Worcester's book deserves high praise.

F. W. WILLIAMS.

*The Orient Question, To-day and To-morrow.* By PRINCE LAZAROVICH-HREBELIANOVICH. Illustrated with maps. (New York: Duffield and Company, 1913. Pp. 335.)

The outbreak of the third Servian war since October, 1912, gives special point and significance to this contribution by an enthusiastic Serb. Plenty of books have been written about the Eastern question and the special interests of Austro-Hungary; but the Servians as a people have been rather inarticulate. As the country has progressed, however, its educated men have come to understand the necessity of stating their case to the world at large. This volume, prepared on the basis of lectures delivered at the Leland Standford University, is a statement of the international significance of Servia; and at the same time a plea for knowledge of the real conditions of the country.

Prince Lazarovich first of all seizes on the importance of the Servian plateau as a station in the natural land route between the Orient and the Occident. The point is well taken, for links of railway are now

forging which will, within a few months, complete a trunk line from the Persian Gulf to central Europe; and the existing railways from Constantinople through Sofia, Nisch and Belgrade to Vienna, occupy the only favorable all-rail connection. The Servian plateau, which is not very lofty, and is much beset by mountain chains, is the home of the only community of the thirty million Slavs west of Russia which has a government of its own, except its little brother Montenegro. That is of course one of the reasons why Austria has recently forced a war upon Servia. It is to prevent control by a rising power of the south-eastern outlet of the dual empire.

Of the Servians as a capable people the author draws a convincing picture. He believed in his countrymen before the battle of Kumanovo; in 1912 and before the fierce struggles of 1913 with the Bulgarians, which proved to Europe their capacity as soldiers. Prince Lazarovich's praise of the land system and social structure of the Servians is borne out by the facts. It is one of those happy countries in which there are few or no large landed estates, but an intelligent land-owning peasantry. Yet it is a striking proof of the rapidity of changes in that country that a plan for the political reorganization of the Balkans which seemed to the author of this book practical two years ago, has been put out of possibility by the recent wars in the peninsula.

In his study of the general European complications, and particularly of the supposed intention of Austria and Germany to wrest the dominion of the Mediterranean from Great Britain, the author is less successful. It is a little difficult for him to make out his thesis that "the Monroe Doctrine brings the United States in the concerns of the European family of nations." Nevertheless, to the reader who desires to understand more clearly the involved relations of Europe and Turkey with the Balkan situation, the book will offer satisfactory information and discussion, and should be on the shelf of timely volumes.

ALBERT BUSHNELL HART.

*The Rise and Fall of the High Commission.* BY ROLAND G. USHER. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1913. Pp. 380.)

At the time of its abolition in 1641 the high commission was a stated law court with regular procedure for the trial of cases between contesting parties. As such it had been in evidence with increasing distinctness since the middle of Elizabeth's reign, at which time it became apparent that commissions of ecclesiastical inquiry were becoming transformed